

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 165570

60

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 OC-06

CCO-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:JKGORDON:SL

APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE

AF/W:DVKILLION

----- 130278

R 022357Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 165570

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAIR, ASAF, MR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR MAURITANIE SAFETY

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1360 AND 1574

1. DEPT HAS EXAMINED THREE OTHER AIRLINES IN LAST TWO YEARS. IN ONE CASE, MAINTENANCE WAS POOR BUT IMPROVING, THE ACCIDENT RATE WAS LOW AND STABLE, AND U.S. TRAVEL ON THE LINE WAS MINIMAL. WE TOOK NO ACTION. IN THE SECOND CASE, THERE WERE TWO ACCIDENTS IN QUICK SUCCESSION. THE CARRIER'S MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES WERE SHAKY, BUT WE WERE UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY HARD EVIDENCE REGARDING UNSAFE PROCEDURES. WE ENDED BY REDUCING USG USE TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM, WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICE. THE THIRD CASE IS ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES. THE EMBASSY NOTED A SIX-MONTH DECLINE IN EAL SAFETY. EAL MAINTENANCE WAS NOT AS MUCH OF AN ISSUE, BECAUSE OF U.S. FAA CERTIFICATION OF THE REPAIR STATION. THE COMPLICATING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 165570

FACTOR WAS THE ETHIOPIAN CIVIL WAR, WHICH REDUCED EAL'S

RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS, PLUS THE DANGER OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONFLICT.

DEPARTMENT'S COURIER OFFICE FIRST CEASED USING EAL, AND DEPT LATER PROHIBITED OFFICIAL TRAVEL ON EAL. ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES EXPRESSED

-

THEIR REGRET AND DISMAY SEVERAL TIMES AT OUR "SEAL OF DISAPPROVAL." WE HAVE SINCE ENDEAVORED TO FOCUS AS MUCH EXPERTISE AS POSSIBLE ON DETERMINING WHERE THE INADEQUACIES LIE, AND HOW TO REMEDY THEM. FAA SENT TWO INSPECTORS TO ADDIS TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE EAL REPAIR STATION AND ITS PERSONNEL. BOEING HAS OFFERED TO INVOLVE ITSELF, BECAUSE EAL IS A BOEING CUSTOMER.

2. THE DEPT HAS NO FIRM INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE A JUDGEMENT WHETHER THE AIR MAURITANIE SITUATION IS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF EAL. WE MUST RELY ON YOUR JUDGEMENT AND REPORTING. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE HAD SOME OF THE DETAILS ON WHICH HUGHES BASED THEIR WARNINGS TO GIRM. IF YOU THINK IT NECESSARY, WE WOULD CONCUR IN AN IMMEDIATE UNPUBLICIZED LIMITATION ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL. WE WILL ALSO TRY TO FIND WAYS TO DEVELOP FURTHER INSIGHT AND EXPERT SCRUTINY. YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS OUR ACTIONS TOWARD EAL WITH HUGHES AIR WEST OR, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH THE MAURITANIANS. PERHAPS WE CAN FIND AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, AIR SAFETY REGULATIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE165570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKGORDON:SL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760258-0978
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760793/aaaaddyh.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NOUAKCHOTT 1360
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: AIR MAURITANIE SAFETY
TAGS: EAIR, ASAF, MR, AIR MAURITANIE
To: NOUAKCHOTT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006